



Update

Site Response Section

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Kalispell Pole & Timber, Reliance Refinery and Yale Oil Corporation Facilities

DEQ Seeks Public Comment on Final Draft Remedial Investigation Report

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed the Remedial Investigation (RI) for the above-referenced facilities (collectively referred to as the "KRY Site"). DEQ is asking for public comment on the report. The public comment period will end at midnight on March 1, 2007. Copies of the report are available for review at the Flathead County Library (247 1st Ave. E., Kalispell), at DEQ's Remediation Division office (1100 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena), and online at DEQ's website (<http://www.deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/kpt.asp>). Written comments may be sent to DEQ Project Manager Moriah Bucy, at DEQ-CECRA, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, or via email at mbucy@mt.gov.

RI Background and Conclusions

The KRY Site occupies an area of approximately 55 acres located in the Evergreen area of Kalispell, Montana. The three facilities that make up the site are relatively close to each other and are located next to the Stillwater River and nearby homes. The RI was prepared by Tetra Tech EM Inc. (TTEMI) for DEQ.

DEQ conducted the RI to (1) identify sources of contamination, (2) determine the extent of contamination in soils, groundwater, surface water, and sediment, (3) collect data necessary to determine risks to human health and the environment; and (4) collect site-specific data necessary to develop and evaluate cleanup options. During the RI groundwater, surface soil, subsurface soil, surface water, and sediment were sampled.

Groundwater and soils at the site are contaminated with semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) including pentachlorophenol (PCP), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins and furans, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons, and metals, most notably lead. The presence of PCP and dioxins and furans is due to wood-treating operations that occurred at the site. PAHs, VOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons, and metals are present due to wood-treating, refining and petroleum-storage activities that occurred at the site.

In July and August 2006, groundwater was sampled from some monitoring wells, residential wells, industrial wells, and public water supply wells at the KRY Site and nearby areas.

Drinking Water Wells

Low-levels of PCP were found in nearby residential wells; however, none of the levels exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) safe drinking water standards. No contaminants were found in industrial or public supply wells at levels that exceed EPA safe drinking water standards.

Monitoring Wells

Portions of the groundwater within and downgradient (generally southeast) of the site is contaminated with chemicals at levels greater than both federal and state regulatory standards.

The highest levels of PCP, dioxins and furans, and SVOCs in groundwater at the site were found within and downgradient of the Kalispell Pole & Timber (KPT) facility. Lower-levels of

PCP, dioxins and furans, and SVOCs were found within the Reliance facility and downgradient of both the KPT and Reliance facilities. The extent of this contamination has generally been determined. However, the eastern edge of groundwater contamination is not well defined in the deeper groundwater near the Town Pump on Hwy. 2 East.

The highest levels of petroleum contamination at the site were found within the KPT and Reliance facilities. Lower levels are found within and around the Yale Oil facility.

Soil

Surface and subsurface soil samples were collected throughout the KRY Site and at nearby businesses and homes. Soil at the site contains chemicals at levels greater than both federal and state screening levels. Soils with chemicals above screening levels are considered potential sources for groundwater contamination. All sample locations that exceeded screening levels were within the identified site boundaries (see Figure on page 3) with two exceptions. One deep soil sample collected from northeast of the KPT facility contained petroleum hydrocarbons at levels above screening levels. Additionally, some surface soil samples from homes contained dioxins and furans at levels slightly above the residential screening criteria.

Stillwater River

During the RI, surface water and sediment samples were collected from the Stillwater River, which is next to the KPT and Reliance facilities. Metals, SVOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons, and dioxins and furans were detected. Only dioxins and furans were detected at levels above screening criteria in surface water. However, no chemicals were detected in sediment samples at levels above the freshwater sediment screening criteria.

Current Facility Activities

To ensure that safe drinking water standards are met, five nearby residential wells are sampled quarterly because low-levels of PCP were found during the RI. Water levels in wells throughout the site, as well as all surface water monitoring points, are measured monthly. This will allow DEQ to

determine if there are seasonal changes in groundwater flow direction. Consultants for the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) continue to sample groundwater on twice per year at some wells within the KRY Site. BNSF's consultants are also operating an ozonation system that was installed to treat groundwater contamination as it leaves BNSF property at the KPT Facility.

What's Next?

DEQ has been analyzing the risks from the contamination at the facility and, with TTEMI, has been working on the Feasibility Study (FS). The FS Report details the cleanup options that could be used at the KRY Site. DEQ intends to complete the FS Report for the site by the end of July 2007. DEQ will seek public comment on this document before it is finalized, during a comment period that will run in conjunction with one for the Proposed Plan. In the Proposed Plan, DEQ will set forth its preferred cleanup option. Public notice will be provided in the local newspapers and posted on DEQ's website. After consideration of public comment, DEQ will issue its Record of Decision, and require the liable parties to implement the final cleanup.

Further Information

For further information, DEQ invites you to visit the information repositories established for the KRY Site. These repositories are located at the Flathead County Library, the DEQ - Remediation Division office in Helena, and on DEQ's website (<http://www.deq.mt.gov/StateSuperfund/kpt.asp>). Additionally, DEQ will be holding a public meeting in Kalispell during the public comment period to provide a chance for members of the public to ask questions and learn more about the contamination at the KRY Site. DEQ will provide the specific information about the public meeting once it is available.

Please feel free to contact Moriah Bucy, DEQ Project Officer, at 406-841-5064, 1-800-246-8198, or by email at mbucy@mt.gov if you have any questions.

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